

Letters JUNE

Xways Ludham Norfolk
Mon June 5 '44

Dear Billee

Today has seemed one of the strangest that I remember, the morning seemed ever so long and we decided to put dinner an hour earlier. "M" got in a good spot of washing as it was favourable for drying it.

By 9.30 it seemed as though it should be dinner time but we had a cup of tea and biscuits to carry us on till dinner time. "M" finished the short bit of bank and I earthed up my potatoes and then gave my attention to the drive just inside the Xway's gate and heard some soldiers discussing the time that they had to be in camp – 10.15 and wondered if that had any bearing on the "big do" as their time is usually 10.45

After dinner we both went to bed just after 1 o'clock. I was asleep in two minutes and did not wake till 2.30. "M" slept about an hour longer and we both feel considerably refreshed. Shall be pleased to know how you got on with your journey back to K

Tues 5. 6. 44

Well its come at last. The first I knew was from the 8 am news and that was not too enlightening. The Germans said more about it than our people. I turned on for the 10 o'clock European programme but that was all foreign and I realised that perhaps the Home Service was having a special do so got that and got all there was to be known then, which wasn't much except that the invasion had begun and announced a special news at 12. This was not much better except for Churchill's statement which seemed very encouraging – a lot of BBC correspondence was included at 1. We heard a lot more and at 6 a lot of repetition. Madge and Sally are coming over at 9 to hear what the King has to say. No doubt there will be something more then. I can't comment much yet but it seems to be going OK.

It's been a wretchedly cold W wind and a max of 54. After cutting both lawns I gave up and came in to keep the fire warm.

Wed 7. 6 .44

The news so far seems to be pretty good and had the landing not been postponed for a day I wondered how it would have affected your journey. It was not too bad considering all things and it was just as well that you caught the early (and as it proved the only one) train.

The cold N.W. wind still persists and there has been light intermittent drizzle, but some improvement during the afternoon and not too unpleasant for both of us to do a bit to the garden in the evening. The scarlet Phyllocactus looks grand with 3 flowers well open, but the pink one has not opened out yet

We are sending the parcel separately as a letter may travel quicker than a parcel. I don't know of much to tell about Ludham, as a matter of fact the big news is uppermost in my mind these days.

Thur 8. 6. 44

Progress in Normandy seems to be satisfactory. We have just been listening to the 10 o'clock European news and Bayeux is good news. Of course Hitler is doing his best to belittle our efforts but I think that the Allies are pretty sure of their ground. It's marvellous how much and in what detail the defences were photographed beforehand.

Our casualties are reported as slight considering all circumstances but slight is a vague term and I'm afraid they must have been considerable. Howard Marshall's experiences as a BBC man

were very interesting. The vessel he was on struck a shore mine and he had two duckings but he eventually got back here to tell his story over the microphone..

We shall know in a day or two what exactly is the resistance, but the news of a successful counter attack being repulsed is good.

Well no more now so cheerio and best love

Pa

X ways Ludham Norfolk

Thur June 8 1944

Dear Billee

The Women's Institute stall is going to be quite useful to me, by way of disposing of garden produce which I should otherwise throw away.

When seed sowing it is wise to have a little bit in hand, in case of accidents but most often I have a small surplus: likewise with my Dahlias for when I had planted all I had room for I had a good surplus and selected a dozen and a half for the stall, also some lettuce plants in boxes found up 2 dozen which went the same way. The prices I fixed should realise 5/2 which was worth my while taking them round. "M" took no flowers this time but they had a good lot there and I'm told that everything was cleared out. I had the Dahlias and lettuce in two baskets and they seemed a lot heavier by the time I got round there.

Sad to relate I turned out my Begonias and found them all rotten but two so shall not have such a display this year. 'M' made a determined onslaught on the semicircular margin between the two and I came to the rescue in the finish to clear up so once again the drive looks respectable.

Fri June 9 1944

I made an effort this morning and took the sack of waste paper to the village but found it locked and could not get the key. It seems that a man, Armstrong, uses it as a boot repair workshop and was having a holiday today so there was nothing else for me to do but set to and empty it bit by bit through a glassless opening in the window. I did bless it I can assure you.

We have had a little rain lately and I was able to sow more seeds also found some small carrot and turnip for 'M' to put into some soup she was preparing and by the way, they are lovely, real cauliflower not broccoli which are somewhat courser and not so refined.

M went to the public meeting for the Salute the Soldier Campaign, only had notice through England who told me during my waste paper trip, but I expect 'M' will tell you all about it. She got home soon after nine and we had the 10.45 news (good news) and went to bed

Sat June 10 1944

I had a weeding and trimming episode today starting at the corner of the Bungalow and going past the kitchen then the path to the compost heap, got rid of a rare lot and finished up just before tea. Did not go out after tea, it was cold and cheerless and a little drizzle so stayed indoors and read about the "ordinary seaman" but I fancy that this yarn is a little overdrawn although very amusing.

I had a considerable part of the evening to myself. 'M' went over the way and as usual didn't get away according to plan. We listened to a very amusing comedy after the 9.0 news – blacked out the dining room and did not get to bed until well after eleven.

Sunday June 11 '44

'M' was energetic enough to go to church at 8 am but I had a job to even wake up when the alarm went off and when she came in. She roused me again and it was just a toss of the coin

whether I got up then, but I did as M said it was a lovely morning. So it was but the barometer has started to go down again and the wind backed to S.W. with an overcast sky. We both went to church this evening and were treated to half an hours discourse but what it was all about I can't say. I had a sweet to suck during the sermon to make sure of keeping awake. It just lasted for the half hour. 'M' had to see the Vicar about the Church room for her sale so I cleared off and walked home round Lovers Lane but 'M' was in just before I was. There were a few drops of rain as I turned into the Lane and began to wonder whether I should get a wetting but the rain passed away and it was all right.

We are anxiously waiting for the pink cactus to open. I expect it will tonight. The fifth one on the scarlet is out now but the other four are fading. 10.15 and shall not be able to see much more so will await yours before closing this up.

Monday June 12 '44

Registered letter and parcel came this morn and 'M' is going to sort the "bits" out but hasn't done so yet and you will hear about that later as she will post this in the village this morning.

There is not much in your letter that concerns my department, it's mostly hers. Your weather has been about the same as ours here and also what is most important in Normandy. We have done well out there but if the weather had been more kind, no doubt we should have done better, but there seems to be a tough struggle ahead. I wonder what the fishing announcement means. We shall see shortly I suppose. There is good news from Russia too.

Cheerio and best love

Pa

Crossways

Ludham

Gt. Yarmouth

11. 6. 44

My dear Babs

Well, we hope to hear from you tomorrow, so I will get this in hand. It was strange that after all ones speculations you should go off just before the invasion started, and since you had to go just then perhaps it was better to travel on Monday than Tuesday. All the visitors to Ludham went off Monday evening and we wondered, there were only a few stragglers left and the place is very quiet, just like old times. I wonder how long it will remain so. By now I expect you will have rec. the p'cel which I posted on Thursday. I hope the contents carried safely. I have been very busy with sewing jobs and have made 2 more frocks and a nightdress and almost finished 2 aprons like your little one, from some pieces of shadow curtain stuff that Madge gave me together with other things.

I am having the "do" on Friday 23rd and have just asked the Vicar for the Church Rooms, so that is fixed up and I shall get out some notices in the morning. The powers that be have woken up at last and there was a public meeting on Fri. At last. 14 turned up!! Good old Ludham! The target was fixed at £10,000. £2,300 more than first fixed. Wright stuck out for the £10,000 and after it was in danger of being turned down, said he would put 6. --- towards it (we talk in thousands) so I promptly suggested 12. but they were afraid of that. Still I quite expect we shall exceed the 10. I am doing it all from this address, so shall fix up the doings in the hall as we talked of.

Mr Burton (May's father) came along with what they all thought was a brainy idea? A Jumble Sale. Burton and England will make a house to house call and collect on behalf of the P. of W. Red X. but the goods will be auctioned (by an auctioneer and his clerk from Yarmouth) and 90% of the proceeds will be given back to the donors in W. S. Stamps and 10% go to the R X.

What about that, I was fed up for I am sure that everyone would have freely given their stuff and the whole of the proceeds could and should have been for the R X. More than that it rather cuts the ground from under my feet. All the stuff I have appealed for had been freely given and all the proceeds from my sale will go to RX. Anyhow I am doing the best I can and shall get in first for this marvellous do is to be on the last day of the "week." I don't think they quite realise what they have let themselves in for. I dare say they will take £100, and they'll have a busy job dishing out the stamps after the sale to the right people. I was asked if I would provide the Stamps and I said yes, but after thinking what it would mean I have written to Miss W. and asked her to arrange for the Trustee Savings Bank car to be in the village on Sat aft and even: and let them have the stamps direct. I shall have quite enough to do finishing up the proceeds of the "Week on that Day" and someone else can find out what work means for once, after all Mr Bird is Social Org: Sec: so he can have a go at that. I think I shall get quite a nice lot of stuff for my do and if not I shall have done my best. People I have spoken to so far about it are rather down on the idea of selling everybody's old junk for them I must make it widely known that they get no money back from what they give me, that's the real snag for after its all over I can imagine Mrs Jones, "Oh I got 10/- for my stuff." Mrs Smith, "Well I've got nothing for what I gave to Mrs Goodey and I want to know why." Nuff sed!

I want to try and get down to Marris (?) tomorrow and see if I can scrounge something there, and also to one or two more.

Vera came in this morning. She has had to alter her W.D. as it clashed with the M. Union and the Vicar announced tonight that he was altering the Intercession Services to 7 pm on Thursdays. Of course that's on account of the Market Stall in the afternoon. I'm sorry to say that Mrs Adcock is steadily getting worse, for when she is sitting down she cannot by herself get up again without being lifted, although she can still walk when on her feet. It looks as if her spine is affected. Its terribly tragic and I'm so sorry for him. My leg is still going on and well, I hope but there is still a blue patch all round the place and if I were unfortunate enough to break the skin I'm afraid I should have the trouble all over again.

Madge and Sally are coming over for B. on Monday evening and we are going to Vera's on Tuesday, after that we shall have to be content till after S. the S. week is over. If you have any odd things or suggestions for the Sale send them on. Its been a dreary week as far as weather goes. Plenty of bloom in the garden. Today has been better.

Much love and a kiss
Mama

Moughton Netheraoon
6 Addison Rd.
Gorleston

Crossways
Ludham
Gt Yarmouth
12. 6 .44

My dear Babs.

Thanks for p'cl. What pretty stuffs we used to get from Liberty's. I am sending herewith my watch and the above is Mr M's address. The best thing you can do is send yours back and explain the trouble.

Will write again later, nothing doing here and Ludham is as quiet as pre war days.

Much love
Mama

Xways, Ludham, Norfolk
Tues 13 .6 .44

Dear Billee

I hope that you got "M"'s watch in due course. I posted and registered it this morning and by this time I expect you will have sent yours to be seen to.

It's been an uncertain sort of day today and not much doing outside so we'd a bit of sorting out to various letters and papers and just generally put the time in.

Wed 14. 6. 44

A bit better today but still on the cool side and being dry I cut the side lawn in the morning and started the tennis lawn and finished it after dinner. I was a bit tired after this and potted about with frame and pot plants until supper time. "M" was played out today and went to bed about 10.30 and went straight off to sleep, did not hear me when I retired about half an hour later.

I finished the Ordinary Seaman, it's a mixture of fun and Grimness, and I still think it was a bit overdrawn.

Thur 16. 6. 44

W.I. Market Stall today. It took us both some time in the morning getting bunches of flowers and sage, pulling some onions that were running to seed and would not keep, also a couple of bundles of lettuce plants. Cauliflowers are coming along nicely but I haven't got any of these for the stall.

The intersession service has been at 3 pm on Thursday but it has been altered to 7 pm so does not clash with the market stall. M went this evening at seven and said there was a marked increase in the congregation. Mrs Smallwood came back with her. There seems to be a lot to talk about regarding this, and the things for sale are making a goodly show. I expect that you will have full details when "M" writes again.

^Fri 16. 6. 44

I made a start out in the garden but a shower made everything wet and I came under cover and did some potting in the garage.

The news today about the pilotless plane seems rather disturbing but I don't think they will have any effect on the war effort or seriously effect the country. It is not a new thing but a development of an invention which is years old and should not trouble us greatly. We are well plastering the Pas de Calais area where they are apparently being discharged from.

It's a cold cheerless May and summer seems a long way off now . I had my annual trip for cow dung. "M" would have liked to come but gets a pain in her foot at times (rheumatic I think) and did not feel like risking it. Although it was cold pottering about in the garden without much action, it was warm enough for walking and I came in all aglow and didn't hug the fire for a time but later on the fire side was very comfortable.

Mrs Blake came over just before nine and cut out the 9 pm news so we waited for the 10.45 European broadcast and went to bed when that was finished. Did not get to sleep until nearly two am. But could not identify any of the noises with the "new secret weapon"

Sat 17. 6. 44

Another cold overcast day, temperature 54 at the best It seems day after day the same N or NW winds must make things difficult in Normandy. I wonder if the weather was at the root of the exclusion of the fishing warning which was prolonged by a week.

Have done nothing in the garden today but confined my intentions to jobs which I could do down the garage. Came in at 5.30 and had to go up to Throwers for a further supply of cigarettes for "M"

Did not go out into the garden after tea, it was not inviting enough and was glad to sit beside the fire.

These rough winds are playing havoc in the garden. Some fine spikes of Delphinium have been blown down as also have some lovely plants of cornflower just coming into flower. Rose poles also have caught it and I shall have a nice prickly job repairing the damage.

Thought to have a treat for dinner and dug some potatoes but had to raise 3 roots to get enough for the two of us and don't reckon that it will be much good trying again till July.

Some of my tomatoes are feeling the result of the strong cold winds and there will be some gaps in the rows which I had planted. I see by the paper that tomatoes are a fortnight behind outdoors and I don't suppose they will overtake the arrears

This letter seems all garden but I haven't much else to say except about the war and I'm not fond of rehashing this news. Still it looks as though in spite of the rough sea that they are building up in Normandy – what price Churchill and the King going over there.

As tomorrow will be Sunday I blacked out the dining room and we had a read till about 11.30 and had a good night's rest being lulled off by the drone of our planes going out and I did not wake till 7.30 am on Sunday

Sunday 18. 6. 44

It was a dreary outlook with a N. wind which bellied out the bedroom curtains and I decided to have a lay in. M got up and on with things – was the good Samaritan, lighted the Ideal and pumped water for my bath before dinner, acts which I much appreciated.

I don't know what the range of the new German weapon is, but I haven't heard of any reaching as far as this locality but under any circumstances I can't believe that they will be a serious menace, bad as though it may be for any actual objective.

It's a little more sunny and less cold this afternoon and I expect we shall both go to church this evening and post this on the way going or coming home. Well that's all now, it doesn't seem much Did "M" tell you that Ludham's target is £10,000 and I expect that will be exceeded

Cheerio and best love

Pa.

Crossways
Ludham
Gt Yarmouth
18. 6. 44

My dear Babs

You will find I think enough wool enclosed herewith to finish the sleeves. It may be just the slightest bit darker than the other but will all be alike after the first wash. Hope you get the watch alright and thanks for the small patterns but we suddenly discovered on Thursday evening when Pa made the remark that at present we haven't a single thing in the sale for a boy. Mrs Alibone has come to the rescue and is going to make a pair of knockers next week. We now have quite a lot of little girls dresses, over a dozen to fit all ages. I have made 5, Miss B 2, Mrs Blake 1 and Mrs Cook has turned out some print dresses for older girls up to about 14. We have a lot of really nice things, new tea cosies, table centres, aprons, egg cosies, face cloths (8) and some necklaces and brooches.

On Saturday afternoon after W. S. I got them to stay and we ticketed and marked off the things. We had about £10 worth if they are all sold for what they are marked. We got on with them as on the bills I have asked for the stuff to be given to the collectors or sent to me, or to the C. Room on

the morning of the sale Friday 23rd and we may have a busy time. So far we have only about a day on articles that one could call jumble and somehow I don't think we shall get much of that kind of thing, but its all the better to have good fresh saleable stuff. At any rate we could make a good show if nothing else came. I expect that Friday will be a busy day as there is sure to be a good deal more come along by then. Things are very quiet here at present of course everyone is beginning to think about the week and I expect we shall exceed the 10,000 alright. Mrs Ainsworth sent me a couple of pieces of lovely material yesterday, would make a first class rigout for a girl of about 12 – but there will not be time to get it made up. Mrs Blake and her 2 sisters have made some nice things and I can't ask them to do any more. Mrs Alibone is gradually improving, but does not get out and about. She is very self conscious, although I tell her that her face does not notice so much now

My leg is I hope better but there is still that nasty blue patch where the place was and I feel very nervous about it, but must hope it will gradually go. Next time I see nurse I will mention it to her. I am all curiosity about the parcel you mentioned. Hope you are having a nice week end with Alys and the children. I can't think of more now. Have done up another p'cl for Miss D today. Had a nice book last week. "Katherine Christian" by H Walpole – his last. Will probably write again before the weekend.

Much love and a kiss
Mama

Crossways Ludham Norfolk
Mon 19. 6. 44

Dear Billee

As I write this after supper in the dining room beside the fire we are having the first bit of bright sun it seems for weeks, certainly for days but a keen N wind has kept the temperatures down to just about 60

M was energetic enough to get up before 7 and wash some sheets, notwithstanding the fact that she did not get off to sleep until nearly 2 a.m. I was almost as bad but then I did not get up until late.

I was the little messenger boy who went up to the vicarage this morning and I only got about an hour outdoors before dinner but managed a bit more than that in the afternoon and also in the evening. Sad to relate there were fifteen gaps in my tomato rows and I filled them up with cauliflowers and did a bit more to the west border alongside Lovers Lane. M succumbed this afternoon and shortly after dinner went to bed until 3.30, quite a good thing for her to relax a bit

The 9 o clock news was very cheerful tonight and the report about the "Infernal machines" quite reassuring. I was glad to hear that such steps had been taken and weight stated was lower than I anticipated. The reports from Normandy were quite good, the BBC are not doing so bad as to matter but the transmission is not too good . I suppose it will improve as time goes on. The extracts from Churchill's speech are very reassuring and typical of him. Somewhat guarded but quite an advance on anything he has said before, He might be called a cheery optimist, certainly some of his previous speeches were, to put it mildly, very much less optimistic.

Your letter came this morning and I will not encroach on "M"s department beyond saying that it was a happy thought that started the 3 girls on contributing to the sale.

Glad to hear that you had a break from school atmosphere. I expect that you thoroughly enjoyed your weekend with the Marshalls.

So far the Infernal machines have not troubled us here and I hope that they wont.

Tues 20. 6. 44

Just another cold dreary day, overcast and a chilly North wind wants to make one stop indoors where a little warmth can be found.

“M” continues to make articles for the Red X sale and Nelly Jones came today with a miscellaneous collection including an Ensign Box Camera but she only thought it was alright, didn’t know for certain so it’s a difficult thing to price. I gave it the once over and it seemed to work efficiently but I could not say for certain that there was no defect. She also brought some books (M is reading one now 9.45 pm) and a doll etc etc. It looks as if the sale will be quite good. There was only one thing about Nelly, she came just as we had settled down for tea which was rather early. ‘M’ had been out in the garden and was dying for a cup of tea so we made it a bit earlier.

We have both been doing a bit to the west border this evening but it wasn’t at all nice and was inclined to drizzle with a thick bank of clouds everywhere. Plenty of machines about but none visible below the clouds.

More sale. Someone has just called 9.52 to bring her contribution

This is a bit of a scribble but it is getting dark, not like last evening which was gloriously fine about this time. I think we shall have to black out the dining room. Anyway I’ll give up now and continue later.

Wed 21. 6. 44

Nothing outstanding today. Did nothing outdoors till this afternoon, It was cold and dreary with intermittent drizzle. ‘M’ went to Women’s Institute this afternoon and pushed forward the sale to evening. Goods are coming in fast and thick and she spent the evening with Nurse, Mrs Phillippo, Mrs Brown and Mrs Smallwood sorting out and pricing. There was a fine litter in the dining room and your bedroom and I kept out of it and nearly finished off the west border, digging along at the back next the bank. The sale business lasted till about 9.15. We had supper after and had the 10.45 European News before going to bed.

Thur. 22. 6. 44

The sun having reached the highest point is now beginning to decline, there’s always something sad in this thought. Why cant it keep up for a bit longer. Your parcel came this morning and “M” reckons she had about double the stuff expected and if all is sold it should produce a wholly worthwhile result. Its astonishing the amount of support that she has had.

She is going up to the village and will post this so I’ll not stop any longer.

Cheerio and best love
Pa

Charlie’s latest letter enclosed. Have kept back a very nice Blue Woollen D. Gown for Janet. It came from Boardmans. What do you think (3/-)

Love
Mama

Crossways Ludham
Norfolk
Sun 25. 6. 44

Dear Billee

We went round to the Methodist church this evening. It was a special do in honour of “the week.” The place was only about three parts full but they managed to collect over £4 for the

Norfolk war charities. As usual the singing (5 hymns) was more hearty than highbrow, Really at times it was nearly deafening.

The preacher was somewhat different to Ainsworth – you could hear every word and he might easily have compressed the 25 minutes into say 15. Still they were very sincere and a few church people were there but not so many as might have been. It was a lovely evening and we had a short walk up Lovers Lane as far as the Hall turning before going indoors.

Mon 26. 6. 44

Not quite so nice a day as yesterday and the Barometer has been going down steadily for some days – we might get some rain one of these days – “M” was energetic this morning and went to the P.O. to square up some “week” matters with Mrs Thrower and got back before 10 o clock. Saturday produced £868 and today £1458 – quite a good start.

Have been able to do some odd jobs out in the garden including some tying up of the climbing roses which have been buffeted about by the wind a lot.

Tues 27. 6. 44

Today’s total dropped to £430 but the total so far £2756 isn’t bad and Wright’s £6000 promised will not come in until later in the week. This leaves £1244 to come in during the remaining four days.

Today’s total was smaller possibly on account of the weather since dinner. I cut the side lawn this morning but since then we have had some samples of weather – thunder and lightening, rain, hail and some vicious squalls although in some short intervals it has looked as if the rougher elements were unknown. Just now 9 p.m. the sun is shining into the dining room and its lovely but we have no juice or wireless probably on account of the thunder storms.

M had just started making some rock cakes when I discovered that the juice was off and had all ingredients ready: luckily the current has come on again so she will be able at 9.40 to get on with the cooking. Of course we missed the news but can get the 10.45 budget. I’m very interested in hearing about Cherbourg of which the BBC would have something to say after the 9 news.

Nurse has just been in and handed me over £3 for goods she has sold which were left over from Friday’s sale so the total is creeping up

There are some lovely cloud effects after the storm and the barometer is inclined to rise so anticipate a finer if somewhat cooler day tomorrow.

Shall hang on to this, till tomorrow’s post. Perhaps we shall get one from you.

Wed 28. 6. 44

Nothing much to add. We have not been disturbed so far by the Infernal machines, According to accounts we are at about the extreme range. Progress is good in France and I hope before long that the danger may be removed. If we can only get Havre and go up the coast we shall feel safer. I expect big things when Cherbourg harbour is made available. Meanwhile

Cheerio and best love

Pa

“Death Came Back” by Charles Kingston is a good yarn. You ought to try and get it.

Crossways
Ludham
Gt Yarmouth
Sun 25 – 26th

My Dear Babs.

This may not be all there is to tell but the rest will have to be concluded in our next. After plenty of hard work we got the Sale over on Friday. Everyone turned up trumps, much to Mrs Ainsworth's astonishment I think for she remarked to me twice "What a splendid body of workers I had got. She hadn't got time to come to the sale really although I asked her if she would be at the opening. She came in during the morning and selected a few toys: incidentally some of the cheapest and then called for them later in the afternoon (your little doggie was among them) At that time we were nearly finished and were going to have some tea, so I invited her to have some. Still the same tale "hadn't time to stay" I'm afraid she is on the wrong track but more of that later. Well we had a great success at the total at the moment is £39.6.0 which I hope to make up to £40 before the weekend. Grand isn't it. We had very little jumble but some really nice things, a china and grocery, flowers, trinkets, toys, baby's things, older girls things. On 8 sections Mrs Cook gave us quite a good p'cl of girls and ladies frocks out of stock and several people made things. Oh I have not mentioned a section for tea cosies, face cloths and dress and pyjama cases, all very nice. We had some cakes and eggs on the china stall. We raffled 2 articles, one very big wool dressed doll and a tea cosy which realised 50/- between them and a guess the weight cake another 10/- and something. Thanks very much for the things you sent. I will send you a note for the girls one day this week. Your Book Rests fetched 10/6 and now I am launched on the "week." I did £811, yesterday £700 of which came from Browns! I can see us getting a total of £12,000 for with Wrights it is already £7,200 so if Adcock turns up trumps we shall do well. Today we have had a grand parade and Church Service all the organizations what Army people there were in the place and a Boys Brigade Band to lead. I was very surprised to see Girl Guides about 20 with Mrs Bird in charge of all village children. We formed up in School Road and marched to the Church. It was packed. Cyril Thrower read the lesson and after the service all formed up on Stocks Hill facing the War Mem: A platform had been erected by the Church wall alongside the seat and at 12 o/c General Ironside appeared and walked all thro the parade inspecting every unit and afterwards addressed the assembly. (Wouldn't Evan have loved it)

Xways Ludham Norfolk
Thur 29. 6. 44

Dear Billee

There was intense aerial activity here before breakfast – one continual hum and machines seemed to be going in all directions leaving vapour trails all over the sky. It was half cloudy but we could see a great deal in the gaps in the cloud.

As usual this week 'M' went up to the P.O. and made up accounts. Very few people came during the morning and scarcely anyone before 11 am. We had another letter from Gertie this morning just to say that they were OK but they must have a terrible job just now with broken glass etc Old Rodwell caught it as well. Enclosed are her last two letters but I cant quite make out what she means by "all over the wall in the front bedroom." I sent her a telegram authorizing Webb to do the repairs as the Council seem so full up and its quite possible that Webb may be as full up.

A nice day and we were able to do without any fires indoors and I was able to do a bit in the garden and was quite ready to come in for the 9.0 pm news. We don't black out in these days except the bedroom and wait to hear the Russian news at 10.45 and then go to bed.

Fri 30. 6. 44

Half the year gone and scarcely have had any real summer. Hope July will be better and give us some rain. The garden needs it badly.

Gertie's second letter came this morning it was posted Thursday. Nothing much to tell today just followed the routine for Salute the Soldier week. 'M' has had one or two frights in balancing up but has cleared most of the items up satisfactorily but its usually about ten before she has finished and on two occasions had callers round about 10 o'clock. It would improve matters if clients were not so inclined to gossip.

Sat July 1 44

Some rain this morning but not a lot, just enough to make everything wet. Mattocks are doing the flowers this month and Sally came over for a few and she and 'M' had to brave the rain to get them. The rain cleared during the morning and I cleared out my cauliflowers and dug over the ground. It was dust dry an inch or two down in spite of the sprinkles we have had lately.

It was pretty late when 'M' had finished and tomorrow being Sunday some of it was being left over and I did not wind up the alarm for 7 am.

Sun 2. 7. 44

It was about 7.30 when I woke up and I turned out straight away and got 'M' a pot of tea and woke her about 8. We have had a 'go as you please' day today and made it a day of rest from the week except for a visit from England this afternoon whilst we were walking round the garden taking stock of the fruit etc. Apples seem to be above the average and a pear tree or so that have not borne fruit before have one or two on each and we may be able to see what they are like but the two trees near the compost heap have very few this year.

Tomatoes are about a month late as only one shows any bloom. Peas and potatoes are about a fortnight later than last year as the ground has been so much colder this spring

We have had a little walk this evening Lovers Lane, Coldharbour Lane, Hall Common and through Hall Farm. It's the longest walk that "M" has had in about six weeks and she does not feel any bad effects of it. The clouds were a bit threatening and as we were coming along the lane from the Hall farm there were a few spots but nothing to hurt. It would have been tiresome to have had to hurry with thermometer at 71 and a very humid atmosphere. It has been nearly 80 today, and rather tiring. I'll leave this now and close up tomorrow. Perhaps we shall hear from you then.

Mon 3. 7. 44

A lovely steady downpour and looks like continuing for a bit and I can see myself doing some planting after the rain stops.

Quite a budget has just arrived including your letter. M is waiting to go out and I cant digest all of the others. C and G are evidently in a hot spot and talk about leaving the house but I will write again and send their letter on

Cheerio and best love

Pa